WEAVER

John Tilman Mary Jose Calliham - dan of John Weaver 10-9-1719. 1713-30-244.

> John Weaver. Carpeder of Enfi Elga to Edw. Weaver 195a- on C. Side Josephs Ses ady. Thees. Blands land, College land, Consequed by The Tomberson to John Weaver g-father of this Sol John by his 1621 T. devised being be ever brown died-the Jather of this sol John -

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#### Weaver

The History of Germantown.

The history of Germantown in Fauquier County, Virginia, like many other localities in the United States runs back to Switzerland and the Valley of the Rhine.

In 1709, Christopher von Graffenreid, a member of a noble Swiss family then in London, conceived the idea of bettering his fortunes by founding a Swiss and German Colony in America.

---- locating silver mines in that locality. For these reasons Governor Spotswood took an interest in De Graffenreid, who told him that through his friends and relatives in Germany he could get skilled miners to come to America and thus develop the supposed silver mines.

In 1712 the project took definite and De Graffenreid went to to secure miners from Germany.

The Colonists who finally founded the Germantown settlement in Fauguier came from the old Principality of Nassau Siegen Germanry, and their homes were in the neighborhood of Siegen The capital of the District.

The Colony was organized in 1713 and went to London ---------some merchants of that city agreed to advance the money
necessary to send the Colonist to Virginia, with the understanding that Governor Spotswood would reimburse them. The
Germans had some money of thir own and the merchants advanced
the remanider. The colonista sailed from London in the beginning of the year 1714 and reached Virginia in the month of
April 1714.

The German colony consisted, upon its arrival in Virginia of forty-two persons and in 1724, when living in Germantown in the present County of Fauquier, they proved their imprication in the County Court of Spotsylvania in order to take up land under the Head-right Act.

Their names were as follows: John Kemper and Alice Katrina his wife; Jacob Holtzelaw and his wife Margaret and son John Henry; John Joseph Maraten (Martin) and wife Marian Katrina; John Spilman and wife Mary; Herman Fishback and wife Kathrina; John Buffman (John Henry Hoffman) and wife Kathrina; Joseph Guntz (Kuntz-Coons) and wife Katrina and son John Analis;

#### Weaver

Will of Tilman Weaver: Leg.-beloved wife Anne Elizabeth Weaver, the use of my plantation and land, adjoining which I now live and also a tract of 111 acres, being the land I had of Martin Hardin, which was taken up by John Hardin; reversion of this bequest to my son son Tilman Weaver at the death of my wife; eight slaves to my wife, with reversion to sons Tilman, John and daughter Susannah Weaver; daughter Anne Kemper, wife to John Kemper; daughter Mary wife to Harmon Hitt my tract in Culpeper; to daughter Eve Porter wife to Samuel Forter, 150 acres teing the land that I bought of Charles Taylor; son Jacob; daughter Elizabeth; daughter Catherine; son John. Exs., beloved wife Anne Elizabeth weaver, son Jacob Weaver and son-in-law Samuel Porter.

D. December 14, 1759 R. March 27, 1760
Wit. William Norman, Tilman Martin, Thomas Marshall.
(A great deal of land and many slaves).
Fauguier-Will Book I. p. 13.

Joseph Hitt and wife Mary, Harmon Kemper and wife Catherine, and Anne Elizabeth Weaver to William Hunton ---- land bounded by Armistead Churchill, William Russell, which he bought of Thomas and Samuel Porter and is the land which desce scended to Mary, Catherine and Anne Elizabeth as sisters and coheiresses of Tilman Cowns, decd. May 27, 1762.

Fauguler, Deca Book I, p. 323

Appraisal estate of Tilman Weaver. June 24, 1762. Appraised by John Wright, Jeremiah Darnal, John Sinklear. June 24, 1762.

Fauquier Will Book I. p. 52.

#### WEAVER

Fauquier Under the Propritorship by Grooms P. 122.

A warrent was issued in the summer of 1718 for 1,805 acres lying on both sides of Licking Run, to 'Jacob Holtzclaw,' John Hoffman, John Fishback, Peter Hitt, Harman Fishback, Tilman Weaver, John Spillman and several other Germans'. Of the latter were John Kemper, John Joseph Martin, Joseph Coons and Jacob Rector. These men and one, whose identity is not established, moved with their families from Germanna and traveling the Old Iroquois trail occupied the Licking Run tract in 1720.

The Rev. James Kemper, grandson of John Kemper, throws further light on the organization of of the Germantown community. He says --- that each of the twelve shares in the Germantown grant was surveyed in an oblong square, the run or creek passig through the middledof each tract. He also testifies that in their trek to Germantown the colonists packed all their provesions on their heads and thereafter raised their first crop with hoes, in both of which their women bore a part.

P. 129 At the present time there are descendants of but one of the twelve families living on the Germantown tract. A Miss Weaver and her brother still own about 130 acres of this tract, and it is evidently a part of the tract that was originally set off to Tilman Weaver. The original Weaver house built of logs, now weatherboarded with poplar still stands. It was built in 1721, as a poplar board over the door with this date carved on it shows.

Dujelicale

# The 1714 Colony of Germanna Virginia.

On April 7th and June 2. 1724, twelve heads of families appeared at a court held for Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in order to prove their right to take up land according to royal charter. They made oath that they had come to Virginia in 1714.

I Jacon Holzelaw, his wife Margaret and John and Honry his sons.

- 2. Herman Fishback and Kathrina his wife
- 3. John Fishback and Agnes his wife.
- 4. John Comper und Alice Kathrina his wife
- 5. Johnannes Martin and Maria Katrine his wife
- 6. John Spollman and Mary his wife.
- 7. John Muffman and Kathrina his wife
- 8. Joseph Cuntz and his wife Katherina, his son John Annalis (sie) and Kathrina his daughter.
- 9. Jacon Rickart (Rector), his wife Elizabeth and his son John
- 10. Milchert Brumback and Elizabeth his wife.
- 11. Tillman Weaver and his mother Ann Weaver.
- 12. Peter Hitt and Elizabeth his wife.

These affiderits mention only twenty-nine persons, although other contemporaneous documents state that the colony consisted of some forty persons. The order to the surveyor to lay out these land were not given till May 1729.

In 1927 the writer (William J. Hinke, Ph. D.) visted Siegen and found in the church records of the Reformed church there entries referring to other members of the 1714 colony (that is other than Fishback and Kemper).

Families from Mussen.
The Merten (Martin) Family. Jacob Merten, Bergschoffe (chief miner) born about 1634. He died Oct. 19, 1689. He married Jan. 24, 1654, Margarete Eichen, who died Sept. 1, 1693. Their

children --- among others, Hans Jacob, bapt. Sept. 23, 1660, died Aug. 26, 1693. He married Oct. 27, 1687, Anna Barbara Wurmback, daughter of the assistant Judge Friedrich Wurmbach.

Thir children, ---- Johann Jost, born May 24, 1691, who emigrated to Virginia in 1714.
Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. XL, p. 517-325

### Families from Oberfischbach.

The Cuntre (Kuntze, Cantz) Family. On Jan. 20, 1704., the banns were proclaimed at Oberfischbach of Jost Kuntze, son of Johnannes Kuntze, late of Niederndorf and of Anna Cortrud daughter of Partimus Keinschmidt; they were married Feb. 7th fineir children were 1. Johannes, papt. April 18, 1708 at Niederdorf; 2. Anna Mizabeth; bapt. Dec. 23, 1708; sp. Anna Margretha, ds. of Tillman Kuntse and Lisabeth, wife of Valentin Schmelder; 5. Christian, b. Ang. 30, 1712, sp. Christian Funtz.

The objection to this identification are evident: 1. The name of John Gunts's wife in the Virginia records is Catherine; 2. The names of the children of the Virginia remarks Cuntz, were John, insalis and Sathrin. But, it cannot be regarded as beyond the range of possibility that 1. John Cuntz's wife died in 1713; 2 his son Christian may also have died and 3. the name Annalis in the Virginia records cannot be the name of a son, but must be the well-known abbreviation of the German name Anna Elizabeth, and that was the second child of the Oberfischback man. Hence the possibility that the two persons are identical remains. (Notice that the Virginia records of the family prove that the name Tillman is carried, which the writer did not know about. 8. A. C)

The Weber (Weaver) Family.

The name of Tillman Weber (Woaver) and his mother anna has thus far not been found, either at Siegran or in its neighbor hood. But Mr. Ihrle reports that the surname Weber is found at Eiserfeld, Niederschelden and Weidenau. This leaves something for the future historian to investigate.

Virginia Historical Hagazine, XLI, p.41-49

Dyplicate

#### Weaver

### Prince William Co.

June 23, 1746. Indenture between Tilman Weaver and Jacob Holtzclaw of Hamilton Parish to John Wright and Joseph Blackwell, Gent., fo 621-8-0 a tract of land for the use of the Glebe, on Jeremiah Darnel and the German Roling Road.

Acreage not given.

Prince William Deed Bk. I, p. 127



# Knights of the Iron Horses

Governor Spotswood's Colony of Metalworkers Will Be Honored Nex At Site of Their Settlement in 1714

Next Sunday, April 26, at a point on Virginia Route 3 midway between Culpeper and Fredericksburg, a stone marker will be unveiled at the site of Germanna, first settlement in 1714, of a group of German families sponsored by Governor Spotswood for protection of the frontier and the development of an iron industry. The accompanying account was written by C. H. Huffman, of the English faculty at Madison College.

## By Charles Herbert Huffman

Special to The Times-Dispatch

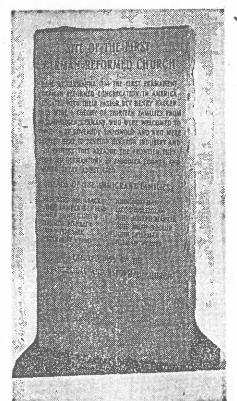
IN THE story of every community are incidents that stand out boldly. One such occurred in 1713 in the Nassau-Siegen area of Germany. The Reformed congregation there, which still maintains a "vigorous existence," was then already an old, firmlyestablished one, with roots deep in reformation tradition. Excitement among them was caused by a letter from Governor Alexander Spotswood, transmitted through his friend Baron de Graffenried, inviting a select group of master miners and skilled iron workers to come to Virginia.

The invitation was electrifying. To accept the bid meant turning their back on religious bigotry and economic instability and following the beckoning lure of Graffenried's bright vision: "What a glorious country it is, how cheap, what liberty, what large growth, good business, rich mines, and other good things it has."

But it was neither intolerance nor insecurity that impelled them to leave. Rather, their motive was vocational and economic. Forty-two enterprising persons accepted the challenge. (That is 42 persons arrived in America. There is evidence, however, that their number was larger when they left Germany.) Ten years later, in America, affidavits of record prove the colony was then composed of the following 12 families, the pastor's making a thirteenth:

The Father of His Flock

Melcherd Brumback and his wife blizabeth; John Camper (Kemper) and his wife Alice Kathrina; Joseph Cuntz (Coons), his wife Kathrina, their son John and daughter Kathrina; Harmon Fishback and his wife Kathrina; John Fishback and his wife Agnes; Peter Hitt (Heide) and his wife Elizabeth; John Hoffman and his wife Kathrings Jacob Holtzclaw, his wife Margaret, and their two sons John and Henry; John Joseph Martin and his wife aria Katrina; John Jacob Rector, his wife hat mist the on John John Spill-



Marker will be unveiled at site of Germanna Church.

man and his wife Mary; Tillman Weaver and his mother Anna.

At the center of this community was the pastor's family, the Rev. Henry Haeger and his wife, Anna Catherina, He was described by his colleagues as "worthy and learned." Having been thoroughly trained in medical science and in theology, he became at once the trusted doctor, both of their bodies and of their souls; and having already served a quarter-century in the Siegen church as their teacher and pastor, he held their highest respect and devotion. Three of his daughters, Agnes, Anna and Elizabeth married ,respectively, three of the immigrants, namely John Fishback, John Hoffman, and John Jacob Rector. Thus Pastor Haeger became the ancestor of many distinguished Americans, among whom were five statesmen, Governors of their respective States in the nineteenth century. James Lawson Kemper, a descendant, was Governor of Virginia from 1874

The emigrants were so eager to begin their new life that they did not wait for orders to depart from the Fatherland. In a dither, they crossed the channel, but upon arrival complications arose and they were unable to take passage. Theirs was a rest-

less delay in London during the Winter of 1713. Early the following Spring, however, they sailed for America and landed on the Virginia shores in April, 1714.

They were warmly welcomed by Governor Spotswood, who willingly paid their, passage fares, and who for a time subsisted them at his own expense. At once his, personal interest in them was manifest. First, he persuaded the Assembly to create, exclusively for them, the new German when and found a lar parish of St. George and to forbid hunting, them in what is no by others, within five miles of the outer; boundaries. Second, he induced the lawmakers to relieve them of the usual "head tax," an exemption twice renewed. Third, he did not bind them to indentured servitude, but permitted them always to remain free men. Fourth, with the immigrants' aid, he set about promptly to construct a stockade for them and to build inside it a blockhouse for the protection of their homes. But they used the blockhouse for worship, once each weekday, twice each Sunday. Thus Spotswood's provision for war became their medium for peace and the first German Reformed Church in America. They named their village Germanna in honor of Germany and of Good Queen Anne. (The site of Germanna is on State Route No. 3. It is on the left, as one travels east from Culpeper to Fredericks-

#### Fontaine Describes the Place

In the Fall of 1715 John Fontaine, French Huguenot traveler, visited them and left the only contemporary, eye-witness description of their "town" known to us. In his diary, under the dates, Nov. 20-21 of 1715, he wrote:

"About five we crossed a bridge that was made by the Germans, and about six. we arrived at the German settlement. We went immediately to the minister's house, 21st . . . We walked about the town, which is palisaded with stakes stuck in the ground, and laid close the one to the other, and of a substance to bear out a musket shot. There are but nine families, and they have nine houses, built all in a line; and before every house, about 20 feet distant from it, they have small sheds built for their hogs and hens, so that hog-sties and houses make a street. The place that is paled in is a pentagon, very regularly laid out; and in the very center there is a blockhouse, made with five sides, which answer to the five sides of the gread inclosure; there are loopholes through it, from which, you may see all the inside of the inclosure of . They make use of this block-house for divine service. They go to prayers constantly once a day, and have two sermons

on Sunday . . ."

During the five o malued at Germanna, a furnice, and man Being efficient, ind they were contented they wished to take so that they might cultivate the soil for permitted to do so he With a glint of iron began moving there removal and planning life was a sure sign of built new homes, a ne and probably a new foundry. Their new Germantown, and the Run Here they pros until the westward senility, and the Resolved their unity.

#### Twelve Cluste

It is easy enough Reichel's dry humo through Germantows "When one is in the the jown is?" The 12 composed each of a he tures were dotted al nearly 21 miles long b buildings serving a 1! tails used by this wr restore the scene I sketches have been original sources-wil orders and from th Fair ax Harrison, W and others. The local iron furnace an Weaver homestead c termined; other deta ever, are less easily concerned only with who were invited by Virginia and who as 1714, For other Germ some years later, w them," and who rema after "Our Colony" 1 regard).

## Our Own I

This German colon first practical demoaration of Church ly they observed as carefully t dling in secular a Breschook no 1 evangolistic rev

ry. These Germ ever proselyte

# Horseshoe

# Be Honored Next Sunday 1714

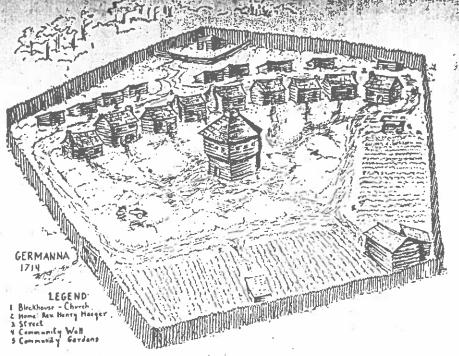
During the five or six years they rethe Winter o ring, however. mained at Germanna, they mined ore, built a furnice, and manufactured iron. Their enthusiasm was undoubtedly aggressive. landed on the Being efficient, industrious, and frugal, ned by Goverthey were contented and prosperous but ly paid their they wished to take up land of their own time subsisted so that they might work the mines and At once his cultivate the soil for themselves. Not being was manifest. permitted to do so here, they sought elsenbly to create, where and found a large tract that pleased new German them in what is now Fauquier County. orbid hunting, With a glint of iron in their eyes, they began moving there about 1720. Their of the outer iced the lawremoval and planning for a new phase of ne usual "head life was a sure sign of their maturity. They enewed. Third, built new homes, a new church and school, entured serviand probably a new iron furnace and vays to remain foundry. Their new village they named ımigrants' aid, Germantown, and their new church Licking struct a stock-Run Here they prospered for many years side it a blockuntil the westward immigration, their their homes. senility, and the Revolutionary War dise for worship, solved their unity. each Sunday.

#### Twelve Clusters of Families

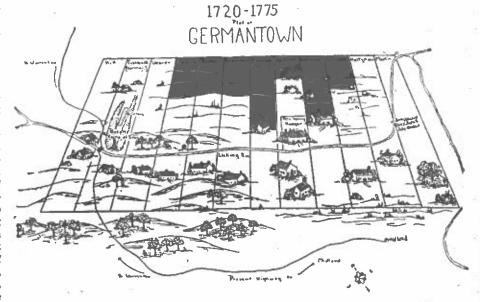
It is easy enough to understand Bishop Reichel's dry humor when he, passing through Germantown in 1780 remarked: "When one is in the town one asks where the jown is?" The 12 clusters of buildings, composed each of a house and utility structures were dotted about over a vast area nearly 21 miles long by 11 wide, each set of buildings serving a 150 acre farm. The details used by this writer in attempting to restore the scene in the accompanying sketthes have been taken mostly from original sources-wills, deeds, and court orders and from the research papers of Fairlax Harrison, Willis Miller Kemper, and others. The location of the grist mill, the iron furnace and foundry, and the Weaver homestead can be accurately determined; other details of the scene, however, are less easily fixed. (This article is concerned only with the first, 42 persons who were invited by Spotswood to come to Virginia and who arrived in Virginia in 1714. For other German families who came some years later, who "set down near and who remained here some years after "Our Colony" left, this study has no regard).

#### Our Own Iron Knights

This German colony gave us perhaps our first practical demonstration of complete see aration of Church and State. Scrupuli ly they observed the public laws, but as carefully they refrained from dling in secular and ecclesiastical political politics. The secular and ecclesiastical politics with the revenue of the eighteenth ry. These German Reformed colonists over proselyters; hence the Estab-



Germanna stockade, as described by John Fontaine, after a visit in 1715, is pictured by C. H. Huffman after a study of old records.



Germantown, in Fauquier County, was founded by thirteen families after five years at Germanna, and flourished until time of Revolution.

lished Church of Virginia did not restrain them, but it did benevolently permit them to pursue the tenor of their way. They were zealous, but not narrow zealots. They were pious, but not Pietists. In the practice of their religion, if one may paraphrase "Guvenor B:"

"They drew their furrer straight

And into nobody's tater-patch poked."

This wise and prudent discretion antedated Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom in Virginia and the Federal Constitution by more than half a century. Toleration had not been granted to them; it had been won by them.

At Germantown, they created an almost perfect demonstration of rugged American individualism, tempered by enlightened group interests common to all. These 12

immigrant families patented here an area of 1,800 acres, shared equally the cost of perfecting the title, and divided equally the immense tract by lot. Again sharing the cost equally, they set aside a choice 10-acre plot for the support and enjoyment of their pastor, Rev. Henry Haeger, who ministered to all impartially. Their gristmill, iron furnace and forge, their church and school were community projects. Here was practiced, with balanced emphasis on each, individualism and the general welfare.

The character and genius of the Siegenians are inextricably interwoven in the fabric of our State and nation. It was they who furnished the skill for our first mining operations and who pointed the way unerringly to the subsequent development of our great iron industry.

#### he Place

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or war became

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in America.

Germanna in

Good Queen

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left, as one

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a bridge that and about six ettlement, We nister's house. ne town, which stuck in the e to the other, out a musket nilies, and they in a line; and 20 feet distant heds built for t hog-sties and place that il regularly laid here is a blockwhich answer ead inclosure; it, from which If the inclosure lock-house for prayers Con e two sermons